(c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra was asked to furnish details in respect of Village Grain Banks established out of those sanctioned to them earlier, during the years 2001-02 and 2003-04. These were received in this Ministry on 23.1.2007.

(d) The Department of Food and Public Distribution sanctioned 1111 and 266 Village Grain Banks for establishment in Maharashtra State on 5.3.2007 and 30.3.2007 respectively.

Status of foodgrain stocks

†42. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of various foodgrain stocks including wheat, rice, pulses, edible oils, sugar, etc., as on date in the country;

(b) whether the storage of the said items is not as per the requirement of storage criteria;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure proper arrangements of storage keeping in view of the shortage of stocks of said items in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The stocks of wheat and rice as on 1.8.2007 in the Central Pool is as under;-

Commodity	Quantity (Lakh tonnes)
Wheat	120.19
Rice	91.65

As per the information available with the Department of Food & Public Distribution, sugar stock in the country on 1.7.07 was 176.38 lakh tonnes. Government does not maintain stock of edible oils and pulses in the Central Pool.

The existing buffer stock norms applicable for foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) are as given below:

(Lakh tonnes)

	Wheat	Rice	Total
1st April	40	122	162
1st July	171	98	269
1st October	110	52	162
1st January	82	118	200

Against this the position of stocks of foodgrains as on 1st July, 2007 was as under:

(Lakh tonnes)

Commodity	Actual stock	Required under buffer stock norms
Wheat	129.27	171.00
Rice	109.76	98.00

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The stock of wheat in the Central Pool on 01.07.2007 was lower than the buffer norms.

(d) During 2007-08, the anticipated requirement of wheat and rice in the country for TPDS and welfare schemes is 140 lakh tonnes and 260 lakh tonnes, respectively. For meeting this requirement, apart from domestic procurement of 111 lakh tonnes of wheat, the Government has decided to import upto 50 lakh tonnes of wheat.

Tenders for import of wheat by Government agencies

†43. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tenders for importing wheat had been invited by Government agencies at international level in July, 2007;

(b) if so, the number of institutions that submitted tenders for wheat import;

(c) whether the minimum rates therein were between 318 to 370 dollars per tonne;

(d) if not, the facts thereof;

(e) the reasons for this difference between 318 to 370 dollars in minimum rates; and

(f) the quantum of wheat permitted to be imported finally alongwith the names of the firms from which it has to be imported and the rates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven bidders submitted their bids for the tenders for import of wheat.

(c) The bids received ranged from US $ 317.95 to US $ 370.00 PMT C&F (FO).

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The bids received from the suppliers against global tenders were on the basis of different origin, arrival period, discharge ports, freight and other commercial considerations.

(f) 5.11 lakh tonnes of wheat has been permitted to be imported as follows:

Name of Supplier	Quantity (+/-5%)	Price (US $ Per MT C&F(FO)
TOEPFER International, Asia, Singapore	1.28	317.95
CARGILL International, S.A., Singapore	0.65	324.10
CARGILL International, S.A., Singapore	0.65	327.10

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi